

## EMERGENCY UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION

Tier I – 20 weeks  
Tier II – 13 + 1 weeks  
Tier III – 13 weeks

On November 6, 2009, President Obama signed new federal legislation which provides additional Emergency Unemployment Compensation (EUC) benefits to certain individuals. Individuals may be eligible for 14 additional weeks beginning with the week ending November 14, 2009. The new extension is not retroactive and does not apply to weeks of unemployment prior to November 8, 2009. An individual will be eligible for additional weeks in a higher Tier only if all benefits are exhausted in the current Tier prior to December 31, 2009.

Please do not contact the UI Division. New programming and procedures are required before implementation. Potentially eligible individuals will be notified and provided instructions on what to do to apply for the new extension.

**20 weeks of Tier I EUC.** The Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2008, signed by President Bush on June 30, 2008, provided up to 13 weeks of federally funded EUC benefits in all states to unemployed individuals who collected all regular benefits or whose benefit claims were expired. The first payable week is week ending July 12, 2008. The Unemployment Compensation Extension Act of 2008 expanded the EUC program up to 7 additional weeks for a total of 20 weeks. The first payable week for the 7 additional weeks is week ending November 29, 2008.

**14 weeks of Tier II EUC.** The Unemployment Compensation Extension Act of 2008 enacted on November 21, 2008, also authorized a second tier of 13 additional weeks in states with high unemployment. With the total unemployment rate climbing to more than 6 % in the first quarter of 2009, Hawaii triggered on to Tier II. The first payable week for Tier II is week ending May 9, 2009. You must exhaust Tier I benefits by December 31, 2009 to be eligible for Tier II benefits. The Worker, Homeownership, and Business Assistance Act of 2009 provided one additional week on Tier II making a total of 14 weeks payable and removed the high unemployment trigger for this level.

**13 weeks of Tier III EUC.** The Worker, Homeownership, and Business Assistance Act which is effective November 8, 2009 also added a third tier of 13 additional weeks in states with a 13-week insured unemployment rate of at least 4% or a 3-month average total unemployment rate of at least 6%. You must exhaust Tier II benefits by December 31, 2009 to be eligible for Tier III benefits.

**6 weeks of Tier IV EUC.** NOT AVAILABLE IN HAWAII. The Worker, Homeownership, and Business Assistance Act also added a fourth tier for states with a 13-week insured unemployment rate of at least 6% or a 3-month average total unemployment rate of at least 8.5%. Hawaii EUC claimants do not qualify for this new level.

**Remaining balances on existing claims.** After December 31, 2009, individuals with balances remaining at their respective Tier level may continue to be eligible for their remaining Tier entitlement until the week ending June 5, 2010. No EUC benefits can be paid for any week that begins after May 31, 2010.

## **WHO IS ELIGIBLE FOR EUC?**

To be eligible, individuals must meet the following requirements:

1. You must be currently unemployed and apply for EUC by December 24, 2009. The EUC program ends December 31, 2009 unless Congress acts to extend the program. No new EUC applications will be accepted for weeks of unemployment ending after December 31, 2009.
2. You had a claim for regular benefits with a benefit year ending May 1, 2007 or later which has exhausted or has expired.
3. You must have no rights to regular benefits or any other compensation under federal law and not receiving benefits under the Canada unemployment law.
4. You must have one of the following in the base period of your last regular unemployment insurance claim:
  - ☐ 20 weeks of full-time insured employment or
  - ☐ Wages equal to one and one-half times your high quarter wages or
  - ☐ Wages equal to 40 times the weekly benefit amount on your last regular claim.
5. You must satisfy all eligibility requirements of the Hawaii Employment Security Law.
6. You must be registered in HireNet Hawaii and keep your resume posted online. You must continue to make 3 job contacts each week.
7. You must not have a disqualification or ineligibility still in effect.

In addition to the above, to be eligible for Tier II EUC:

1. You must exhaust the 20 weeks of Tier I EUC before December 31, 2009.

## **HOW DO I FILE FOR EUC?**

1. **New EUC Claims - Exhaustees of Regular UI benefits.**  
For individuals who exhaust regular UI benefits, notices are being mailed out weekly with instructions to report in-person to a local claims office with your notice or to call Hawaii Tele-Claim and apply for EUC by phone. The maximum

benefit amount on your new EUC claim will be 20 times your weekly benefit amount. The last day to apply for a new EUC claim is December 24, 2009.

**2. Current EUC filers - Claimants who have not exhausted 20 weeks of Tier I.**

If you are currently filing EUC, you will be eligible for 14 additional weeks of Tier II EUC if you exhaust the first 20 weeks of Tier I EUC benefits before December 31, 2009. You should continue to file your claim certifications according to your normal filing schedule. If you exhaust your first 20 weeks of Tier I EUC benefits after December 31, 2009, you are not eligible for additional benefits on Tier II.

**3. EUC claimants who exhausted 33 weeks of Tier I and Tier II need to reopen existing EUC claims.**

If you have exhausted 33 weeks of Tier I and Tier II benefits and are still unemployed, you will receive a notice containing an application to reopen your existing EUC claim. Your claim will be reviewed and processed after you mail or fax the completed EUC application to your local claims office. A monetary determination showing the additional increase in benefits to 47 weeks (33 + 1 + 13) will be mailed to you. After you receive your monetary determination, begin filing your claim certifications (weekly for week ending 11/14/09, weekly for week ending 11/21/09, and then bi-weekly for weeks thereafter). To file by phone, call Hawaii Tele-Claim using your same PIN number.

To file for new or to reopen EUC claims by phone. Call Hawaii Tele-Claim (toll-free) at:

643-5555 (if you are in Hawaii) or  
1-877-215-5793 (if you are out-of-state)

Sunday through Thursday 6:30 am to 12 midnight (HST) and  
Friday 6:30 am to 4:30 pm.

To file weekly or bi-weekly claim certifications by phone. Call Hawaii Tele-Claim (toll-free) at:

643-2222 (if you are in Hawaii) or  
1-877-215-5791 (if you are out-of-state)

To file in person: See Local Claim Office locations below.

HONOLULU Claims Office  
830 Punchbowl St., Rm 110  
PO Box 4090  
Honolulu, HI 96812-4090

LIABLE INTERSTATE Unit (out-of-state)  
PO Box 4090  
Honolulu, HI 96812-4090  
Ph: (808) 586-8960

Ph: 586-8970 or 586-8971  
Fax: 586-8980

Fax: (808) 586-8980

WAIPAHU Claims Office  
94-275 Mokuola St, Rm 301  
Waipahu, HI 96797-3369  
Ph: 675-0030  
Fax: 675-0025

KANEOHE Claims Unit  
PO Box 4087  
Honolulu, HI 96812-4087  
Ph: 586-8970 or 586-8971  
Fax: 586-8980

KANEOHE Office  
46-005 Kawa St., Ste 205  
Kaneohe, HI 96744  
Ph: 233-3679

HILO Claims Office  
1990 Kinoole St., Ste 101  
Hilo, HI 96720-5293  
Ph: 974-4086  
Fax: 974-4085

KONA Claims office  
81-990 Halekii St, Rm 2090  
Kealahakua, HI 96750  
Ph: 322-4822  
Fax: 322-4828

MAUI Claims Office  
54 South High St., Rm 201  
Wailuku, HI 96793  
Ph: 984-8400  
Fax: 984-8444

MOLOKAI Claims Office  
55 Makaena St, Rm 4  
Kaunakakai, HI 96748-1858  
Ph: 553-1750  
Fax: 553-1753

KAUAI Claims Office  
3-3100 Kuhio Hwy, Rm C-12  
Lihue, HI 96766  
Ph: 274-3043  
Fax: 274-3046